

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 ACDA-12 OMB-01
CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W
-----001282 231826Z /43

R 231639Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7262
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
CINCLANTFLT
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 06353

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, OCLR, US, FR
SUBJ: NUCELEAR POWERED WARSHIP (NPW) VISITS TO FRANCE

REFS: A. STATE 006087 DTG 101834Z JAN 78 NOTAL.
B. PARIS 02002 DTG 210727Z JAN 78.
C. PARIS 02137 DTG 231757Z JAN 78.
D. STATE 230599 DTG 242031Z SEP 77.
E. PARIS 33222 DTG 141806Z NOV 77.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WE HAVE RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO
OUR JANUARY APPROACHES ON NPW VISITS. WE DO NOT EXPECT
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A RESPONSE UNTIL AFTER THE MARCH 12/19 ELECTIONS. IF
A LEFT GOVERNMENT IS FORMED FOLLOWING THE
ELECTIONS WE CANNOT EXPECT MUCH CHANCE OF SUCCESS IN
GAINING NPW ACCESS. IF THE CURRENT CENTER-RIGHT
MAJORITY FORMS THE NEXT GOVERNMENT, OUR
CHANCES ARE BETTER, BUT NOT ASSURED. IN THE LATTER
EVENT, WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER REVIVING

THE IDEA OF SENDING A TEAM TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH GOF
OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. PER REF A, IN JANUARY THE AMBASSADOR RAISED NPW
ISSUE WITH SENIOR ELYSEE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIALS AS REPORTED IN REFS B AND C. WE HAVE
NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE TO THESE DEMARCHES. GIVEN THE
CURRENT PREOCCUPATION IN THE GOF WITH UPCOMING LEGIS-
LATIVE ELECTIONS (MARCH 12 AND 19), WE DO NOT BELIEVE
ANY RESPONSE WILL BE FORTHCOMING UNTIL AFTER THE
ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN AND A GOVERNMENT IS FORMED.

3. IN THE EVENT THAT A GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT
IS FORMED FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS, WE ARE NOT OPTIMIS-
TIC THAT IT WOULD BE INCLINED TO GRANT NPW ACCESS.
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THERE IS COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION
IN SUCH A GOVERNMENT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE
SOCIALISTS WOULD BE WELL-DISPOSED TO TAKE POSITIVE
ACTION ON ADMITTING NPWS. THE SOCIALIST PARTY HAS
ENOUGH ANTI-NUCLEAR, ECOLOGY, OR ANTI-MILITARIST ELE-
MENTS IN IT TO MAKE THE PARTY LEADERSHIP WARY OF
ADDING THE NPW ISSUE TO WHAT WILL PROBABLY BE A FULL
PLATE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.
NEVERTHELESS, IN THE EVENT OF A LEFT VICTORY WE SHOULD
CONTINUE TO SEEK NPW ACCESS IN THE HOPES OF EDUCATING
GOF LEADERS OVER TIME. WE MUST RECOGNIZE AT THE OUTSET
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THAT THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT.

4. IF THE NEXT GOVERNMENT IS CENTER-RIGHT, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS OUR CASE. OUR CHANCES ARE BETTER, BUT NOT ASSURED AS THE GAULLISTS WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE DIFFICULT ON THIS ISSUE. THE WAY TO SUCCESS LIES IN CONVINCING THE GOF THAT US ASSURANCES MEET WHAT FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL SOUTOU CALLED LEGAL AND "PUBLIC OPINION" DIFFICULTIES (REF C). WITH THAT IN MIND ONE WAY TO GIVE IMPETUS TO THE DIALOGUE WOULD BE TO REVIVE LAST FALL'S PROPOSAL TO SEND A WASHINGTON TEAM TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. IN REF D, WASHINGTON PROPOSED SUCH A VISIT AS AN OUTGROWTH OF PRIME MINISTER BARRE'S WASHINGTON CONVERSATIONS. CONFIDENTIAL

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WE PRESENTED THIS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, NOTING THAT IT WAS THE FOREIGN MINISTER HIMSELF WHO SUGGESTED SUCH A VISIT. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY NEVER RESPONDED ON THE VISIT DESPITE SEVERAL FOLLOW-UP QUERIES ON OUR PART. REF E PROVIDED THE LATEST FRENCH DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON THE ISSUE AND NOTED THAT THE QUESTION OF BILATERAL TALKS WAS DEFERRED PENDING THE USG RESPONSE. THAT RESPONSE (REF A) DID NOT ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF BILATERAL TALKS (WHICH WAS PROBABLY APPROPRIATE IN THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD).

5. AS NOTED ABOVE SUCH BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS COULD BE USEFUL IN OUR EFFORT TO GAIN NPW ACCESS. WE WILL OFFER FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING THE MARCH ELECTIONS AND FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT. HARTMAN-

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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TAGS: MNUC, OCLR, US, FR
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